

Thomas L. Halsey House  
140 Prospect Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-233

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
133-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## THOMAS L. HALSEY HOUSE

Address: 140 Prospect Street, Providence, Providence  
County, Rhode Island.

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
133-

Present Owner: Robert Gamino

Present Occupant: Owner and various tenants.

Present Use: Apartment House.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This is an example of a large, early-nineteenth  
century brick house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner--Thomas L. Halsey. House sold to present owner about 1960; previously owned by Mrs. William L. Mauran.

2. Date of erection: c. 1801.

3. Original plans, construction, etc.: The house was originally a simple rectangular shape, two-stories high, five bays wide with a central hall plan.

4. Notes on alterations and additions: The curved bays on the front were added c. 1825. Various later additions include the wings to the south and the northwest. The interiors have been remodelled and the house divided into 13 apartments by the present owner.

5. Sources of information: Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia: Garreet and Massie, 1937), pp. 320, 327, 382.

HABS Inventory prepared by John Hutchins Cady, November 19, 1956.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General statement

1. Architectural character: This is a large brick house built c. 1801, with elegant detail including a Palladian window and roof balustrade, and with curved bays added to the front c. 1825.

2. Condition of fabric: Good condition, very well maintained, now divided into 13 apartments.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block about 50' (five-bay front) wide with double curved bays on front, two stories high, ballroom wing on south, later large wing on northwest.

2. Foundations: Regular ashlar brownstone.

3. Wall construction: Smooth-faced brick, running bond, very narrow mortar joints. Northwest wing partly brick, partly clapboards.

4. Porches: One-story wood entrance porch at center of main block, fluted Roman Doric columns at front corners, pilaster responds at the wall, full Doric entablature, balustrade on roof, vaulted ceiling.

5. Chimneys: Brick chimneys in end walls.

6. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Six-panel main door, flat panels may be later. Slender Corinthian colonettes on pedestals flank door. Side lights and top lights with delicate lead ornamental mullions.

b. Six over six light, double hung windows. Molded wood frames set in masonry openings, splayed brownstone lintels on first floor, adjustable louvered shutters. Front windows on second floor extend nearly to floor line with wrought iron railings. Palladian window with Ionic pilasters over entrance porch.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Low pitched hip roofs, sheet metal covering with standing seams.

b. Cornice: Modillion cornice with fret bed mold.

c. Dormers: Two small gabled dormers with pediments on front.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall, four-room plan in front part of house, somewhat modified to accommodate apartments, but with front rooms and details in other rooms largely intact.

2. Stairways: Main stairway at rear of central hall, U-shape with landing, landing connects to stairs and hallway serving northwest rear wing.

3. Flooring: Wood.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doors: Panel doors, molded trim.
6. Trim: Molded wood trim, small scale.
7. Lighting: Electric.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on large, deep lot, house set slightly back at front, driveways on north and south to apartment in south wing; large yard on west rear.
2. Enclosures: Iron fence on front.
3. Outbuildings: Small later frame house at rear, one story, irregular shape.
4. Landscaping: Informal garden with trees, lawn, shrubs, and flowers.
5. Walks, driveways, etc.: Sidewalk to front door of large rectangular flagstones. Later asphalt driveways

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
May 1962.